

U.S. House and Senate Notification
Thursday, May 20, 2010

To: Congressional Health Staff

From: Amy Hall
Director, Office of Legislation
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Subject: CMS Releases Community Living Initiative State Medicaid Director Letter

Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a second “Community Living Initiative” letter to provide States with information on new tools for community integration, as well as to remind States of existing tools to support community living. In June 2009, President Obama announced the “Year of Community Living” to mark the 10th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court’s *Olmstead v. L.C.* decision, in which the Court affirmed a State’s obligation to serve individuals with disabilities in the most integrated setting appropriate to their needs. Since the passage of the ADA in 1990 and the *Olmstead* decision more recently, progress has been made to improve community living opportunities for people with disabilities. With the issuance of the State Medicaid Director letter, CMS reaffirms its commitment to the policies identified in previous *Olmstead* guidance. CMS is eager to work with States to continue building upon earlier innovations and we hope this letter will help States identify new strategies to improve community living opportunities.

The State Medicaid Director letter is available at: <http://www.cms.gov/SMDL/>

If you have questions about this notification, please contact the CMS Office of Legislation. Thank you.